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>06/09/99 09:58 AM
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>cc: wsimon@frontier.net
>
>Subject: Animas update
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>Synopic sampling for the Animas Watershed will take place June 21- 23 and
the
>Stakeholders subcommittee meetings will be all day the 24 with the total
>stakeholders meeting the evening of the 24. Because of travel constraints
many
>EPA staff that wanted to help with the sampling will be unable to assist.
>However if you still want to help, I have found a very inexpensive place
for
>anyone that would like to come. It is a house associated with a bed and
>breakfast which will sleep 10 friendly people at a cost of \$20 apiece or
\$200
>per night for the house (21-23). Please give me a call at x6310 or e-mail
your
>intentions before Friday June 11 if you still would like to go. THANKS!!!
>
>Following is an update of Activities in the Animas Watershed for this year.
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>PROGRESS ON THE TMDL, USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSIS, and WRAS
>The outline and flow chart for these combined activities can be obtained
upon
>request. They were too long to attache to this message.
>
>WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND THE ALASKA DECISION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE
>STAKEHOLDERS MTG

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>DATA MANAGEMENT

>Marty McComb (Region 8's STORET Coordinator) and Arne Sjodin (CDPHE STORET Coordinator) met with the Animas River Stakeholders Group on April 15, 1999

and

>introduced the EPA's modernized STORET database as a way to manage their water

>quality data. The Stakeholders eventually approved using STORET and they have

>since begun preparing their existing dataset for migration. They have also

>begun looking at ways to insure that future data will be efficiently stored in

>STORET. The CDPHE will support the Stakeholders by migrating the Group's

>existing data into the new STORET format while EPA Region 8 will continue to

>provide training and technical support. The Animas River Stakeholders Group use

>of STORET represents an exciting example of how multiple agency's can share

>water quality data on a local scale using a common database platform.

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>JOINT REPOSITORIES

>The meeting on the joint repository issues in the Animas Watershed between BLM,

>EPA, the State of Colorado and our lawyers was productive. The first item, in

>my opinion, needing clarification is that ALL wastes need not go to a common

>area; the first preference is to reclaim the wastes onsite. However if wastes

>had to be moved, an environmentally sound common area to reduce maintenance

>costs and avoid additional disturbances would be best. The potential locations

>for a joint repository as defined by the stakeholders were presented in an old

>memo by Terry Morris. We focused on three sites: Mayflower 4, the old county

>gravel pit and an area near Eureka. The attention seemed to focus on what was

>the best location because the attorneys could not address legalities in

>generalities. Dave Bucknam and Rob Robinson were going to draft a one-pager

>regarding the sites and their technical and legal issues. I was surprised to

>hear at our meeting in Silverton on May 20th that the DMG had already agreed to

>send the waste from the Carbon Lakes 319 project to the Mayflower 4 and that

>Sunnyside had signed the agreement. Also that the designs for the isolated pod

>on the Mayflower 4 for the Lakawana Tails were complete. If these agreements

>can move forward expeditiously, cleanup can proceed this summer.

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>Good Samaritan Provision (GSP):

>Finally people are beginning to push for this provision. The Western Governor's

>Association (WGA) is still the lead proponent but the National Mining

>Association (NMA) is becoming more involved. They have recently made a
>proposal, to the WGA to change a section that would broaden the interpretation

>of who might be considered a Good Samaritan.

>If you want more information, please give me a call.

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>UIC

>The pH of the mine pool within the Sunnyside Mine has decreased significantly

>over the past two years from approximately 11 to about 3. The mine pool will

>probably reach its final level this summer. A letter was sent to the company

>asking what they plan on doing. To my knowledge, EPA has not received an official reply.

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>PROJECTS FOR FY 99

> The following four FY99 section 319 workplans for the upper Animas area:

> - Mammoth Tunnel Discharge Treatment - Todd Hennis, a private landowner,

>is the project proponent for this project which includes hydrologic controls and

>a sedimentation basin.

> - Silver Wing Mine - Steve Fearn, another private landowner is sponsoring

>this project which includes a demonstration project for treatment of acid mine

>discharge by using techniques used in the petroleum industry.

> - Surface Water Infiltration Controls Demonstration - The Colorado DMG will

>be conducting several hydrologic control projects within the Watershed.

> - Cement Creek Mine Waste Control (Continuation Project) - Also a DMG project which focuses on the Prospect Gulch tributary to Cement Ck.

> - Carbon Lakes will be continued this summer.

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> Sunnyside Gold Corp. (Echo Bay) will be undertaking new projects this summer

> on the B list of the consent decree. They will only be treating the

> discharge from the American Tunnel this summer and not the flow of upper

> Cement Creek.

>

> The following BLM and Forest Service projects will be undertaken this summer.

> - Mogul-Grand Mogul (Upper Ross Basin) trib to Cement Ck - Underground flow

>and water chemistry, an underground mine survey, monitoring wells, surface water

>sampling and possible sealing of mine fractures will be undertaken by DMG.

Last

>field season, DOE performed initial studies using a geoprobe showed a

>significant portion of Cement Ck infiltrates the mine workings. The mine owner
 >is willing to enter into an AOC for cleanup and for transfer of his data on the
 >Fortune 500 company that actually mined this area. EPA's enforcement policy
 >needs to be clarified so we can move forward on this site. (possibly \$230,000
 >for this site)
 > - Lackawanna Mill Tailings near Silverton's town boundary will be
 >transferred to the Mayflower #4 pile if the consent decree can be signed early
 >this year. If not the monies for this site may be lost (\$150,000)
 > - Forest Queen bioreactors were installed last summer but the finishing
 >touches and actual treatment will begin this summer.
 > - May Day Mine hydrologic controls trib to Cement Ck were completed last
 >October. A cap will be placed on the pile this summer.
 > - Upper Browns Gulch trib to Mineral Ck is a small waste dump site with
 >highly reactive rock to be buried and covered this summer
 > - Brookland Mine, also located in Browns Gulch, has portal drainage of pH
 >2.5 - 3.2 at a rate of about 30 gpm and a large waste pile. A 6 phase
 approach
 >to this site will be started this year.
 > - Bandora, located in south Mineral Ck, drains 35 gpm of high zinc and
 >iron. The first phase of collection and diversion of the AMD will take place
 >this summer.
 > - Bonner Mine, located in the Middle Fork of Mineral Ck., has 2
 draining
 >adits at a pH of 3.16 flowing a total of 15 gpm. Phase 1 of this project is to
 >pull the waste rock piles out of the drainage.
 > - Belcher Gulch, trib to Cement Ck, consists of three waste piles in the
 >stream channel. Site assessment will take place this summer and the piles will
 >be moved out of the drainage if necessary.
 > - Kansas City Group is similar to Belcher Gulch. The highly reactive waste
 >rock piles will be removed from the drainage and reclaimed on site.
 > - Minnesota Gulch Group will be characterized this summer. There may be
 >high flow into the underground workings. A geoprobe will be used at this site
 >as well as the Brookland, Banfora, Bonner, Minnesota Gulch, Lark, Joe and Johns,
 >Red and Bonita, Mogul and other sites in Cement Ck and Upper Animas.
 > - Lark collapsed adit flow was diverted into a pipe around the waste pile

>last year. More work may need to be done this summer.

> - Two tracer studies will be conducted by Briant Kimball of the USGS
this

>summer to identify and characterize flows in Upper Mineral Ck including the

>Kohler - Longfellow. Two will also be done in upper Cement Ck and
possibly

>Prospect Gulch

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